

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-03 EB-07 COME-00 /021 W

----- 130846

R 100410Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6144

UNCLAS KABUL 1017

FOR NEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, AF

SUBJ: ATTACHE TITLE FOR COMMERCIAL OFFICER POSITION

REF: KABUL 0746

1. EMBASSY REQUESTED REFTEL THAT SECOND POSITION IN THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION BE CLASSIFIED AS AN FSO-5 LANGUAGE DESIGNATED POSITION. IN ADDITION, WE REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT AND USDOC CONCUR IN GIVING THE TITLE COMMERCIAL ATTACHE TO THE INCUMBENT OF THIS POSITION.

2. EMBASSY INTENDS TO CONTINUE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE EXPORT PROMOTION PROGRAM, INVOLVING EXTENSIVE PERSONAL CONTACT WITH HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) OFFICIALS. IN THE PAST, WITH A THREE MAN SECTION, ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR HAS HAD TIME TO USE HIS TITLE TO GAIN INITIAL ENTREE TO THESE TOP OFFICIALS ON BEHALF OF U.S. BUSINESSMEN, BUT REDUCTION TO A TWO-MAN SECTION WILL MEAN THAT SECOND MAN WILL ASSUME GREATER SHARE OF THIS RESPONSIBILITY. MOST LARGE MISSIONS IN KABUL HAVE A COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, AND THAT TITLE IS KNOWN AND ASSURES ENTREE WITHIN GOA. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT ADDITION OF THIS TITLE WILL MAKE SECOND OFFICER MORE EFFECTIVE IN CARRYING OUT EXPORT PROMOTION ACTIVITIES, AT NO ADDITIONAL COST TO USG.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION FOR DESIGNATION OF SECOND E/C OFFICER AS COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, AND, DEPARTMENT TO MAKE POSITION LANGUAGE DESIGNATED (DARI).

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ELIOT

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